

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 025252 SENT ACTION GENEVA INFO TOKYO,
WELLINGTON, CANBERRA & EC BRUSSELS DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1975:

QTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: JAPAN ARTICLE 22 CONSULTATIONS ON MEAT

REF: (A) GENEVA 355; (B) GENEVA 468; (C) STATE 262240 (1974)

1. MISSION SHOULD NOT TAKE LEAD IN CONSULTATIONS BUT MAY
DRAW ON FOLLOWING:

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(A) U.S. DEEPLY REGRETS UNILATERAL ACTION TAKEN BY JAPAN (AND OTHER MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES) TO PROTECT THEIR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES BY SHIFTING BURDEN OF ADJUSTMENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

(B) SEVERITY OF JAPANESE ACTION (VIRTUAL TOTAL IMPORT EMBARGO ON BEEF) IS ESPECIALLY REGRETTABLE SINCE IT INDICATES NO WILLINGNESS FOR EVEN LIMITED COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN BURDEN SHARING;

(C) JAPAN'S ACTION HAS BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U.S.: (1) U.S. BEEF EXPORTS TO JAPAN WORTH DOLS. 35 MILLION IN CY 73 HAVE BEEN CUT OFF; AND (2) APPROXIMATELY U.S. DOLS. 250 MILLION IN ANNUAL (CY 73) EXPORTS OF BEEF TO JAPAN FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAS BECOME AVAILABLE FOR POSSIBLE DIVERSION TO OTHER MARKETS. MUCH OF THIS COULD COME TO THE U.S. IN 1975, IN THE ABSENCE OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS, SINCE OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY SEVERELY RESTRICTED THEIR MARKETS.

(D) THE RECENT U.S. DECISION TO SEEK VOLUNTARY MEAT EXPORT RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OTHER SUPPLYING COUNTRIES IN 1975 IS NECESSITATED IN LARGE MEASURE BY CLOSURE OF JAPANESE AND OTHER MARKETS WHICH HAS LEFT U.S. AS ONLY MAJOR UNRESTRICTED MARKET FOR MOST OF PAST YEAR. (PROPOSED U.S. VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE NEGOTIATED RATHER THAN IMPOSED UNILATERALLY AND WILL ALLOW AN 8 PERCENT INCREASE IN MEAT IMPORTS IN 1975 OVER 1974 WHEN U.S. MARKET WAS UNRESTRICTED).

(E) CONTINUATION OF JAPANESE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WILL EXACERBATE CATTLE SURPLUS PROBLEMS OF EXPORTING COUNTRIES AND COULD ENCOURAGE LIQUIDATION OF HERDS THAT WOULD ENDANGER FURTHER WORLD BEEF EXPORT SUPPLIES.

(F) JAPANESE BEEF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS HAVE REMAINED CLEARLY UNJUSTIFIED UNDER THE GATT SINCE 1963 WHEN ARTICLE 12 BALANCE OF PAYMENTS JUSTIFICATION DISINVOKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY GOJ (GATT DOCUMENT L1976, MARCH 4, 1963). THE U.S. URGES THAT JAPAN RESUME A REASONABLE LEVEL OF BEEF IMPORTS AT ONCE AND THAT JAPAN'S UNJUSTIFIED QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS BE ELIMINATED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. MISSION MAY SUPPORT EFFORT BY AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND TO WORK OUT WITH JAPAN INTERIM SCHEDULE OF LIBERALIZATION LEADING TO UNRESTRICTED TRADE IN BEEF AND VEAL.

2. SHOULD CONSULTATIONS PROVE UNSATISFACTORY AND
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AGAIN RAISE THE IDEA OF
ESTABLISHING A WORKING PARTY (PARA 5, REF (C)), MISSION
SHOULD RESERVE U.S. POSITION. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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